



Iowa Department of Human Rights

Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

Division of Community Action Agencies Division of Community Advocacy and Services Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning
Offices of

Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs | Deaf Services | Latino Affairs | Native American Affairs | Persons with Disabilities | Status of African Americans | Status of Women

Board Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012

Lucas Building, Room 201, Des Moines

9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The Department of Human Rights board meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dr. Jill Olsen at 9:09 a.m.

Members present: Dr. Jill Olsen, Nathan Monson, Joan Jaimes, LaSheila Yates, Robert Tyson, Sherri Soich, Stephan Pearson, Floyd Winter (teleconference) and Don Southammavong (teleconference). Deaf Services commissioner Gus Cordero participated as a non-voting member on behalf of James Snyder.

Members absent: Theresa Mahoney, James Snyder

Ex-Officio members present: Director San Wong

DHR staff: Danielle Plogmann, Mary Bowser, Bill Brand, Paul Stageberg, Kim Cheeks

Guests: Jeff Reese and Peggy Chicoine, interpreters; Sheila Goff, mother of LaSheila Yates.

Winter moved to approve December 22 minutes. Tyson seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

Strategic Planning – Goals and Objectives

The Board made the following changes to the goals and objectives:

Advocacy

1. In definition of advocacy, changed “direct client support” to “direct client advocacy.”
2. Goal two, objective one, changed to read: The board will coordinate with DHR commissions and public members to ensure each commission is working within the parameters of the strategic plan when making recommendations to the legislature.

Communication and Unified Voice

1. The Board agreed to merge these goals.

Education

1. In goal one, the word resources was changed to assets.
2. In goal two, objective one was changed to read: Board members will work with staff to develop accurate information on the Department’s constituencies appropriate for use in creating educational policies, procedures, and programming.

Resources

1. Goal one, last objective is changed to read: Educate legislators about the need to restore funding/resources to the original 2010 budget appropriations.

Equality/Equity

1. This section was deleted, as the members decided this is an overall value instead of a goal. Equality and equity are included in the summary of Board Goals.

Monson moved to approve the purpose statement and board goals, as amended. Soich seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

Board members and staff divided into small group to begin the next step in strategic planning – putting together action items to fulfill the goals and objectives.

Advocacy: Monson, Soich, Yates, Bowser

Communication/Unified Voice: Olsen, Jaimes, Cordero, Brand, Cheeks, Plogmann

Education: Pearson, Tyson, Stageberg

Resources: Winter, Southammavong, Wong

Homework assignment: By next meeting in April, small groups will have their activities outlined so the Board can review and prioritize. Goal of March 1 to do draft work, followed by conference call with small groups prior to April meeting.

Monson, Yates, Winter and Southammavong left due to other engagements.

Wong delivered Director's report. Olsen asked if staff can provide information to the Board on relevant issues. Wong said the Department will send information when relevant, and hopes the process will be covered in the communications plan within strategic planning.

Wong asked for someone on the board to serve on the upcoming selection committee for the CAS Division Administrator vacancy. Wong will send an email to the board asking for volunteers. The Latino Affairs vacancy is filled. There is a new vacancy opening in the Status of Women office.

Cordero asked to see a line by line breakdown of CAS funding at the next meeting. Tyson asked if there will be any more pink slips. Wong replied that it depends on the amount of funding we receive. If the Governor's recommended budget passes, we should be able to get by. Wong added that she understands the trauma employees have endured in recent years, and is investing in professional development for CAS staff.

Jaimes asked about what can be done to act on a specific bill. Wong responded that the Department is providing information about the impact of proposed legislation to legislators. For example, deaf community expressed concern about a bill, and we provided information and worked to arrange a meeting between commissioners, legislators and the public.

Due to time limitations, board members will review handout materials on Opportunity Nation and discuss at the next meeting.

The next meeting is April 20 and will likely be at least a half-day in length. Facilitator Carol Paquette might return to help the Board move forward on "activities" related to the strategic plan.

Dr. Olsen adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Danielle Plogmann, DHR staff.